

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application. Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 7, and 12 have been amended. Applicant submits that the amendments to claims 1, 7, and 12 do not raise any new issues of patentability, and thus their entry is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 Rejections and Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 1-2, 5-6, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Toor, U.S. Patent 5,748,442. Claims 7-8 and 10-11 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Toor. Claims 12-15 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toor in view of Tanzer, U.S. Patent 6,636,422. Claims 3, 9, 16, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toor in view of Bologna, U.S. Patent 6,084,768.

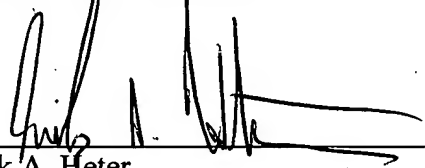
Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the features of claim 4 (along with those of intervening claim 3), and thus submits that claim 1 is allowable for at least the reasons stated by the Examiner in the Office Action. Similarly, Applicant has amended claims 7 and 12 to incorporate combinations of features similar to those present in original claims 3 and 4 and thus submits that independent claims 7 and 12 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Accordingly, removal of the various 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103 rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-69300/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



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